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**Top Secret**

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basic imagery interpretation report

## Postavy Mobile IRBM Base (S)

DEPLOYED STRATEGIC SSM FACILITIES

USSR

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RCA-01/0004/79

OCTOBER 1979

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY
Postavy Mobile IRBM Base					UR
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO.	COMIREX NO.	NIETB NO.
NA	55-09-41N 026-53-46E				
MAP REFERENCE					

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SAC. USATC, Series 1501, Sheet 0168-9, scale 1:200,000

LATEST IMAGERY USED	NEGATION DATE (if required)

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**ABSTRACT**

1. (TSR) This report describes the nearly complete SS-20 mobile IRBM missile support base which has been under construction at Postavy SS-4 MRBM Launch Site 1, USSR, since 1977. The base is divided into four areas—an operations area, [redacted] and a general support area—and is associated with a nearby rail-to-road transfer point (RTP).

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2. (S) This report includes a location map, six annotated photographs, and five tables which give measurements of all the major structures at the support base and the RTP.

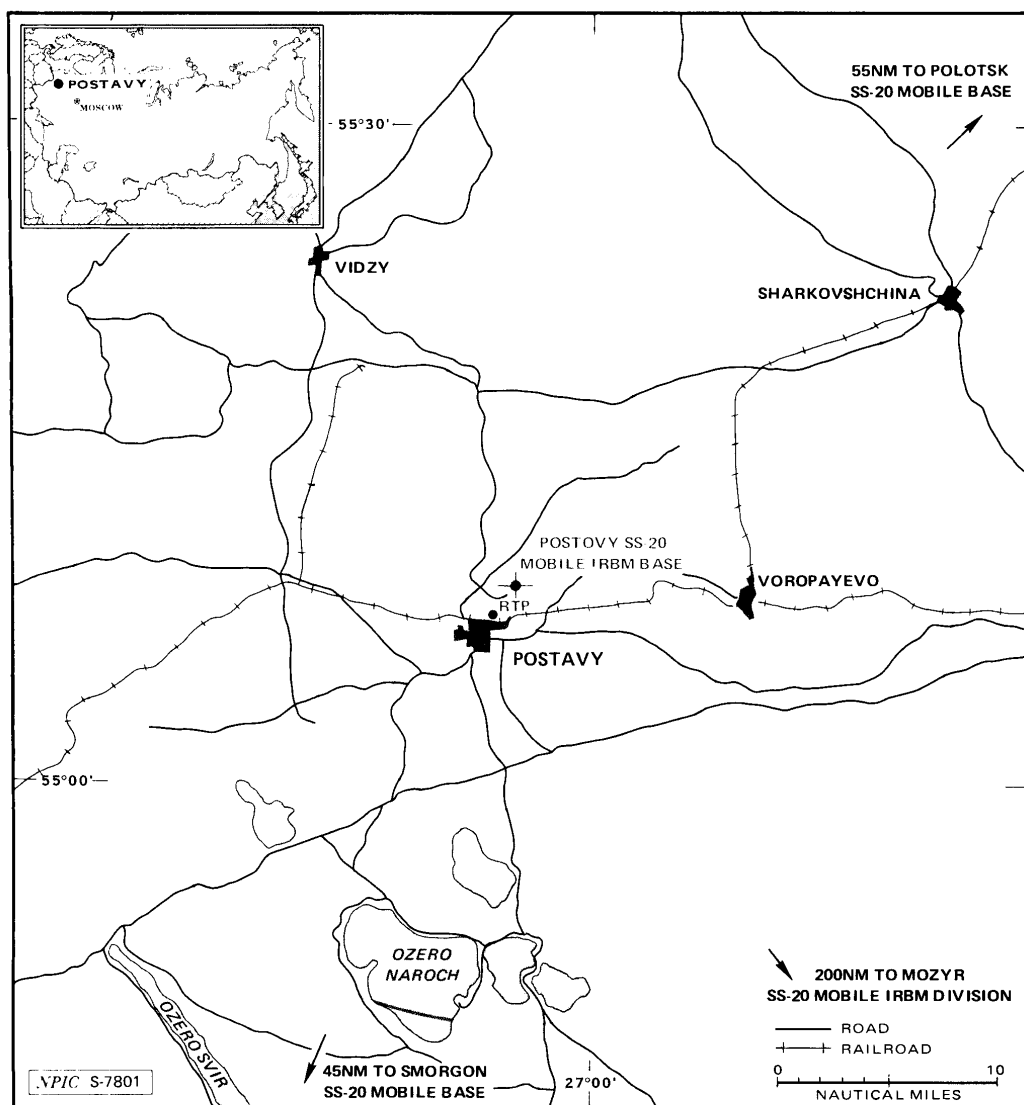


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF POSTAVY MOBILE IRBM BASE, USSR

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## INTRODUCTION

3. (TSR) Postavy Mobile IRBM Base, located in the northwestern portion of Belorussia SSR, is subordinate to the Smolensk Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF) Army. Three other SS-20 mobile bases in the Smolensk SRF Army are Smorgon Mobile IRBM Base 1 [ ] and Smorgon Mobile IRBM Base 2 ([ ] 45 nautical miles (nm) southwest of Postavy, and Polotsk Mobile IRBM Base (BE [ ] 55 nm to the northeast (Figure 1). Postavy is [ ] above sea level and is situated in an area of needle-leaf evergreen forest interspersed with open agricultural fields, numerous swamps, and peat bogs. This region has cool summers and cold winters. The winter temperature averages -23.3 degrees Celsius (C) and ranges from a low of -33 to a high of 1.1 degrees C. The ground is usually frozen solid enough for military vehicle traffic from November to April. The normal annual precipitation is 61.7 centimeters including an average of 50 days of snow, which usually does not exceed 30.5 centimeters in depth. The few main roads in the area are [ ] bituminous surfaced with some short stretches surfaced with concrete or gravel. 25X1

4. (TSR) Facilities associated with Postavy Mobile IRBM Base include the following:

Installation	Distance from IRBM base	Geographic Coordinates	BE No
Postavy MRBM Launch Position 3	11 nm NNW	55-20-33N 026-51-31E	[ ]
Postavy MRBM Launch Site 3 (hard)	5 nm SE	55-06-22N 027-00-08E	
Postavy SSM Launcher Position 1	19 nm SW	54-58-30N 026-28-23E	
Postavy SSM Launcher Position 2	16 nm SW	54-56-27N 026-37-05E	
Postavy RTP	2 nm SSW	55-07-25N 026-52-45E	
Postavy MRBM Regimental Hq Receiver Bunker	1.5 nm ESE	55-09-10N 026-52-20E	

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## BASIC DESCRIPTION

5. (TSR) The Postavy Mobile IRBM Base was originally constructed as a type II SS-4 MRBM launch site between 1961 and 1964. It remained an operational SS-4 launch site until its conversion to an SS-20 mobile IRBM missile support base in 1977. Existing SS-4 facilities were used where possible; however, many new SS-20-related buildings were constructed. Figure 2 shows the new layout of the base and the new construction. The conversion activity was initially identified on [ ] It has been estimated that conversion will be complete by late 1979. 25X1

6. (TSR) The base is divided into four distinct areas: an operations area, [ ] [ ] and a general support area (GSA). 25X1  
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## Operations Area

7. (TSR) The operations area (Figure 3 and Table 1) consists of nine single-bay, sliding-roof garages; three three-bay garages; and eight smaller garages previously associated with the SS-4 missile system. The single-bay, sliding-roof garages are arranged in groups of three. Each garage in a group is connected by cable to one three-bay garage forming a battalion. Three battalions in the operations area form a regiment. Also in this area are 11 bunkers of various sizes, four of which are large enough to house SS-20 launch-related vehicles with missile canisters and were previously used as SS-4 missile-ready bunkers.

8. (TSR) Security for the operations area includes five rows of chain-link perimeter fence and a security building at the entrance to the area. The center row of fence is believed to be electrified with approximately 1,600 volts. At least four guardposts and one guard tower have been identified adjacent to the inside perimeter fence. An earth-covered per-

sonnel passageway leads from the support area under three security fences to the operations area. There is a similar personnel passageway in the [ ] The passageways are similar to those seen at fourth generation ICBM silos and probably serve as security personnel access. 25X1

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ries with a total of [ ] of floorspace. Near the center of the GSA is a separately secured, two-story headquarters building and a command post bunker. Two antennas of an unknown type on masts are located within the secured headquarters area, and two dipole antennas are connected by cable to the area. The dipole antennas consist of three masts and are oriented [ ] toward Moscow. A C-shaped headquarters building is adjacent to the two dipole antennas. The new headquarters building will either replace or augment the smaller previously SS-4-associated headquarters building. Also included within the housing/administration area are two messhalls, a firehouse, a greenhouse, two food storage bunkers, and seven small personnel-type bunkers/shelters.

17. (TSR) Between the housing/administration and agricultural areas is the probable communications area. The two dipole antennas in the secured headquarters area are physically located within this area along with four major buildings and a large earthen mound. The exact function of the buildings is unknown. The earthen mound consists of four buried tanks with vents on the surface which are served by a paved driveway. The function of this structure is also unknown.

18. (TSR) The heating capacity for the base was more than doubled by the addition of a second steam production plant. This plant is a two-story, arch-roofed, triple-boiler facility with a maximum design output of 19.5 tons per hour at 250 degrees C.

19. (TSR) The vehicle storage area contains three 14-bay vehicle storage garages and three smaller vehicle sheds. Nine SS-20 equipment mockups have been constructed, apparently from wood, adjacent to two of the 14-bay garages. Three SS-20 mockups were later constructed across the road next to a probable classroom building. All the mockups are secured by a single security fence. Camouflage netting has periodically been seen covering these mockups. The three larger mockups are of SS-20 transporter-erector-launchers (TELs) with a missile canister. The remaining six are mockups of the various missile support vans associated with the missile system.

20. (TSR) A POL storage and fueling facility is being built adjacent to the vehicle storage area. When complete, the area will consist of fuel pumping island with five fuel pumps and a pumphouse; a single-story administration/supply building; and a large, drive-through vehicle maintenance building. The vehicle maintenance building contains a grease pit that runs the length of the high-bay section of the building with four smaller rooms adjoining the shop bay. The fuel storage tanks will probably be buried between the fuel pumping island and vehicle maintenance building. Lights and lightning arresters will probably be added to this area to help establish a 24-hour/all-weather fueling operation.

21. (TSR) No perimeter security fence was identified for the entire GSA; however, the headquarters building, steamplant, POL, and vehicle maintenance areas were each separately secured by a single fence. Security buildings are at the main gate of the base and the temporary support area, adjacent to the roads leading into the operations area, and at the entrance to the [ ]. More lights have been added, and camouflage netting has been used extensively throughout the entire base.

(Continued p. 10)

#### General Support Area

13. (TSR) The GSA (Figure 6 and Table 4) is made up of eight subareas which are determined by function. They are a temporary support area, a vehicle maintenance area, a housing/administration area, an agricultural, a probable communications area, a steam production plant, a vehicle storage area, and a POL storage and fuel facility area. The temporary support area, located by the main gate to the base, is separately secured by a board fence and has its own entrance. This area contains four barracks, two administration buildings, a recreation service building, a messhall, and a guardhouse at the entrance. The total floorspace for the barracks is [ ]. This area houses the construction/engineer troops needed to construct the adjacent mobile support base. This area will probably be razed shortly after the base has been completed.

14. (TSR) The vehicle maintenance area has one large drive-in vehicle maintenance garage and two smaller ones. The larger garage has two windows in LOS of a calibration monument located approximately 1,100 meters to the northwest. A swath cut through the trees from this garage to a guidance calibration monument leads to the [ ]. The purpose of the LOS to this garage is still undetermined. In the past, SS-4 missile support equipment, erectors, and propellant and missile transporters have been observed entering and exiting this building. The vehicle maintenance area is just inside the main gate and is separately secured by a board fence.

15. (TSR) The agricultural area, previously used in support of the SS-4 MRBM facility, had been enlarged to accommodate the apparent increased number of personnel that would be assigned here with the deployment of the SS-20 missile system.

16. (TSR) The housing/administration area has five barracks and three two-story dormitories, a total of 5,985 square meters of floorspace. A recreation service building is adjacent to the barracks and a dormitory is under construction next to the recreation building. The dormitory will probably have four sto-

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**Table 4.**  
**Measurements of Structures in General Support Area**  
**(Keyed to Figure 6)**

*This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF*

Item	Description	Dimensions (m)			Roof Cover (sq m)	Remarks	Item	Description	Dimensions (m)			Roof Cover (sq m)	Remarks
		L	W	H					L	W	H		
1	Barracks (4)					Peaked roof & single story	35	Admin bldg					Flat roof & single story
2	Admin bldg					Peaked roof & single story	36	Single story bldg					Stepped roof; prob classroom bldg
3	Messhall					Peaked roof, single story & L shaped;	37	Prob food stor					Earth road-served entrance at each end
	Addition					kitchen addition separated by firewall		bunker					
4	Classroom/ dayroom					Peaked roof & single story	38	Admin bldg					Flat roof & single story
5	Food stor bldg					Peaked roof, partially mounded bldg/cellar	39	Single-story bldg					Offset, peaked roof; function unknown
6	Admin bldg					Peaked roof & single story	40	Greenhouse					Peaked-roof, single-story partial glass bldg
7	Security bldg					Flat-roofed, single-story guardhouse	41	Messhall					Flat roof & single story; raised section over kitchen area
						at entrance to temporary support area		Raised section					
8	Security bldg					Peaked roof & single story; adjacent to main gate	42	Raised section					Flat roof & single story w/raised section over kitchen area
9	Guardhouse					Flat roof & single story; at main gate		Addition					
						[ ] high) to base	43	Firehouse					Flat roof & single story; firewall separates troop quarters from vehicle parking bay
10	Personnel shelter					3 earth-mounded SS-11 canisters							
11	Maintenance bldg					Flat, sloped roof & single story; has 4 personnel entrances	44	Single-story bldg					Prob communications associated
12	Vehicle maint shed					Flat-roofed, open-sided structure	45	Single-story bldg					Flat roof; function unknown
13	Single-story bldg					Peaked roof; function unknown; included within motor pool through Sep 77, subsequently separately secured; also collocated with personnel bunker	46	Single-story bldg					Flat roof; prob communications associated
							47	Personnel					Earth covered; leads to operations area
14	Vehicle maint garage					2-story, drive-in bldg w/flat, sloped roof & smaller flat-roofed addition; in LOS w/calibration monument	48	Security bldg					Flat roof, single story, raised tower on corner of bldg; at entrance to operations area
15	Vehicle maint shed					Flat-roofed, open-sided, 2-bay structure	49	Old steam production plant					Flat-roof bldg w/4 different roof levels
16	Admin bldg					Flat-roofed, single-story control bldg for maintenance section of motor pool	50	New steam production plant					Arched-roof, 2-story bldg w/3 boilers
17	Stor shelter					Has 2 earth-mounded, arched-roof sections; second bay not yet totally covered; prob agricultural related	51	Vehicle stor					Flat roof & single story w/14 bays
								garages (3)					
18	Hq bldg					Flat roof, C shaped & 2 stories	52	Vehicle stor shed					Peaked-roof, 2-bay garage w/sloped roof; single-bay addition on each side
19	Dormitory					Flat roof & 2 stories							
20	Dormitory					Flat roof & 2 stories	53	Admin bldg					Flat-roof, single-story control bldg for stor section of motor pool
21	Prob admin bldg					Peaked roof & single story; adjacent to soccer field							Flat roof & single story w/6 bays
22	Barracks (5)					Peaked roof & single story	54	Vehicle stor					
23	Single-story bldg					Flat roof; function unknown		garage					
24	Prob recreation services bldg					Peaked roof & single story	55	SS-20 equipment mockups (12)					Stationary wood frame construction, commonly seen covered w/camouflage netting. Base component of 3 larger mockups; [ ] other
25	Dormitory					Ucon; flat roof & will prob be 4 stories							9 range from [ ] in length
26	Admin bldg					Peaked roof & single story	56	Fuel pumping island					Ucon; slightly raised island w/1 pumphouse & 5 pumps
27	Dormitory					Flat roof & 2 stories							
28	Admin bldg					Flat roof & 2 stories	57	Vehicle maint bldg					SS-20 associated. Flat-roof, high-bay, drive-through bldg; lower section contains work cubicles. A grease pit runs the length of the high-bay section
29	Hq bldg					Flat roof & 2 stories; separately secured along w/smaller support bldg & command post bunker							Flat roof & single story; associated w/SS-20 vehicle maint bldg
30	Command post bunker					Earth mounded; inside dimensions unknown	58	Admin/supply bldg					Flat roof; function unknown
31	Single-story bldg					Flat roof; function unknown							Flat roof & single story; controls access to [ ]
32	Admin bldg					Flat roof & single story	59	Single-story bldg					
33	Food stor bunkers (2)					Earth road-served entrance at each end; small, peak-roofed bldg directly in front of entrance	60	Guardhouse					
34	Single-story bldg					Stepped roof w/raised section; function unknown							
	Raised section												

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**Rail-to-Road Transfer Point**

22. (TSR) The RTP (Figure 7 and Table 5) is 2 nm south-southwest of the missile support base on the northern edge of the town of Postavy and is situated on a railspur leading from the Postavy-Voropayevo main track. The RTP originally supported the Postavy SS-4 complex, but it has subsequently undergone changes in order to support the SS-20 base. The changes include the addition of two railspurs (for a

total of four); the construction of ten small buildings, two ground support equipment transfer sheds, and a board perimeter fence; and the extension of the main railbed. A large traveling hammerhead crane is also in the area. The RTP is served by a road which leads from the town of Postavy to the base. The area is secured by a single, board perimeter fence. A separately secured POL storage area is within the RTP.

**REFERENCES****IMAGERY**

(TSR) All available, relevant KEYHOLE imagery acquired from [ ] 25X1  
[ ] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

**MAPS OR CHARTS**

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 1501, Sheet 0168-9, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

CIA. 26/GS/MG, National Intelligence Survey, *European USSR and the Caucasus*, section 25, Apr 74 (SECRET [ ] 25X1  
[ ] 25X1  
NPIC. [ ] RCA-01/0001/71, *MRBM and IRBM Housing and Administration Facilities, USSR*, Aug 70 (TOP 25X1  
SECRET [ ] 25X1

**REQUIREMENTS**

COMIREX A11  
Project 290013DA

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] Soviet Strategic 25X1  
Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ] 25X1

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